National leprosy Eradication Programme, at Bombay on 21st-22nd September 1991. It was felt by the participants of the Conference that all such acts/laws should be reviewed and suitably updated.

(c) Following steps are being taken to change the existing attitude to leprosy patients—

—Emphasis is being given on health education of the leprosy patients, their family members and community about the facts of leprosy and its curability.

—Encouragement to the Voluntary Organisations in the field of leprosy particulary for survey education and treatment activities.

—Community awareness has been included in the evaluation of the programme.

—Special programmes are being undertaken for social and economic rehabilitation of leprosy patients.

Commercial blood Banks

215. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Wiil the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govemment are aware that some commercial blood banks in the capital are setting blood by issuing their own certificate with the bottles, claiming that the mandatory screening for AIDS virus had been done and the blood was safe while such blood has been found to contain deadly AIDS virus, just before it was administered to patients in a private nursing home;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry had been ordered into this sordid affair and the action taken against the guilty blood bank's owners; and

(c) what steps are being taken to plug the various lacunae in the existing regulations governing the blood trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI S1DDHARTHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Delhi Administration have set up a committee to investigate the whole issue.

(c) Amendments are proposed in the Rules under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to require ratification by Central Government before issue of licences for Blood Banks and for laying down clear guidelines for provision of infrastructure, equipment, testing facilities and stall for blood banks. State/UT Governments have been advised to ensure that all Blood Banks are duly licensed and they fully comply with the laws and regulations in force.

Specialists in C.G.H.S. Dispensaries

216. SHRI SYED S1BTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Specialists available in some nodal C.G.H.S, dispensaries have their timings of examination of patients ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof separately for summer and winter seasons ;

(c) whether some C.G.H.S, dispensaries have been attached with these nodal dispensaries ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether ihese facilities have duly been displayed at notice boards of attach ed dispensaries ; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor *1*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The timing for examination of patients are as under:—

Summer From 8.30 A.M.—till all the cases are disposed of.

Winter From 9.00 A. M.—till all the casse are disposed of.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of visit of Specialists in nodal centres are given in the attached statement *[See* Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 2].

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Directions have been issued to the Chief Medical Incharge of the dispensaries to display the schedule of visits of Specialists to nodal centres.

Manufacture of AZT Drug for treatment of AIDS

217. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian firm M/s CIPLA has since started the manufacture and marketing of AZT (AZIDOTHYMIDINE) drug for treatment of AIDS ; and

(b) if so, what are the details therecan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TITF. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The Drugs Controller (India) has permitted M/s Cipla to manufacture and market Azidothymidine (AZT) in India.

As per the information available, the Company have not yet started marketing the drug.

Incentive for Family Planning

218. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the incentives and disincentive given by Government in order to control the population ;

(b) whether the efforts made are adequate ; and

(i) if not, what further steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The incentives and disincentives given by Government in older to control the population are given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) The existing incentives and disincentives have not been proved adequate. Hence a comprehensive package of incentives/disincentives is being worked out under the revised strategy contained in the Action Plan formulated by this Ministry in consultation with the States/UTs.

Statement

The following incentives are already being given to the Central Government employees who undergo Sterilisation with three or less number of children subject to satisfaction of certain conditions:

(a) A special increment in the form of 'personal pay not to be absorbed in future increases of pay.

(b) Reduction of half percent on the rate of interest on house building advance.

(c) Special causal leave pay upto seven days in respect of male employees and upto fourteen days in respect of female employees.

Some of the State Governments/Public Sector undertakings are also giving similar benefits to their employees under the Family Welfare Programme. As regard disincentives, the only one presently in operation is the one relating to non-availability of maternity leave after two children.

2. No monetary incentives are being given under the National Family Welfare Programme to the members of general public accepting family planning methods. However, under the scheme for payment of compensation, the acceptors of sterili-sEdion/IUD insertions are paid a sum of Rs. 100/9, for loss of wages.

3. Some of the States have introduced a green card scheme under which cards are issued to the acceptors of terminal